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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/758,702	01/15/2004	Earl D. Webb	HES 2000-IP-001080U1D3	8084
28857	7590	02/08/2005	EXAMINER BOMAR, THOMAS S	
CRAIG W. RODDY HALLIBURTON ENERGY SERVICES P.O. BOX 1431 DUNCAN, OK 73536-0440			ART UNIT 3672	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

 Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/758,702	Applicant(s) WEBB ET AL.	
	Examiner Shane Bomar	Art Unit 3672	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5 and 7-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4 and 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/15/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 7 and 12 are objected to because of the following informalities: the recitations of “the casing” in claim 7 and “the outer housing” in claim 12 both lack proper antecedent basis.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent 5,390,736 to Budde.

Regarding claim 1, Budde discloses an apparatus for preventing rotation of a cementing plug 1 during drillout after cementing operations, the apparatus comprising: an outer housing 103; an inner sleeve 102 disposed in the outer housing, the inner sleeve having open upper and lower ends, wherein an inner surface 114 of the inner sleeve curves radially inwardly from the upper end of the inner sleeve, so that the inner sleeve will cause an interference fit with the cementing plug when the cementing plug is received therein (see Figs. 1, 2, and 5, and col. 4, lines 1-14).

Regarding claim 2, the sleeve defines an innermost diameter at approximately element 115 between the upper and lower ends, wherein the inner surface of the inner sleeve diverges radially outwardly in both upward and downward directions from the innermost diameter 115 (see Fig. 2 wherein the diameter at the top of element 114 is larger than the diameter at 115, and wherein the diameter at the lower end 110 is also larger than the diameter at 115).

Regarding claim 5, the inner sleeve 114 has multiple curvatures on the inner surface thereof (see Figs. 2 and 4).

Regarding claims 7 and 12, Budde discloses an apparatus for preventing rotation of a cementing plug 1 during drillout after cementing operations, the apparatus comprising: an outer sleeve 103 for connecting in a casing string 202; an inner sleeve 102 affixed to the outer sleeve, the inner sleeve having multiple curvatures 114 on an inner surface thereof, wherein the cementing plug is received in the inner sleeve (see Figs. 1, 2, 4, and 5, and col. 4, lines 1-14).

Regarding claims 9, 11, and 15, the inner surface diverges radially outwardly from an innermost diameter upwardly and downwardly, and diverges radially outwardly from an innermost diameter upwardly and downwardly (see Fig. 2 wherein the diameter at the top of element 114 is larger than the diameter at 115, and wherein the diameter at the lower end 110 is also larger than the diameter at 115).

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4. Claims 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent 3,159,219 to Scott.

Regarding claims 7, 8, and 10, Scott discloses an apparatus comprising an inner sleeve 33 for insertion into a casing, the inner sleeve having upper and lower ends, an inner surface of the sleeve having multiple curvatures 34 and 36 thereon, wherein the inner surface of the inner sleeve defines an hourglass shape, and wherein the inner surface curves radially inwardly from both the upper and lower ends of the sleeve (see Figs. 6-8). It is noted that the preamble states that the apparatus is for preventing rotation of a cementing plug during drillout of the cementing plug after cementing operations, however the body of the claim does not provide any limitations, either structural or functional, to support the intended use of the apparatus. Therefore, the claim has been examined in light of the structure presented in the body of the claim only.

Regarding claims 12, 14, and 15, Scott discloses an apparatus comprising an outer sleeve 1 for connecting in a casing string C, an inner sleeve 33 affixed to the outer sleeve, the inner sleeve having upper and lower ends, an inner surface of the sleeve having multiple curvatures 34 and 36 thereon, wherein a cementing plug 39 is received in the inner sleeve, further wherein the inner surface of the inner sleeve defines an hourglass shape, and further wherein the inner surface curves radially inwardly from both the upper and lower ends of the sleeve (see Figs. 6-8). It is noted that the preamble states that the apparatus is for preventing rotation of a cementing plug during drillout of the cementing plug after cementing operations, however the body of the claim does not provide any limitations, either structural or functional, to support the intended use of the apparatus. Therefore, the claim has been examined in light of the structure presented in the body of the claim only.

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5. Claims 7 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent 3,550,683 to Comeaux.

Regarding claims 7 and 12, Comeaux discloses an apparatus for preventing rotation of a cementing plug 48 during drillout after cementing operations, the apparatus comprising: an outer sleeve 12 for connecting in a casing string 14; an inner sleeve 20 affixed to the outer sleeve, the inner sleeve having multiple curvatures 34, 36, 38 on an inner surface thereof, wherein the cementing plug is received in the inner sleeve (see Figs. 1-3 and col. 2, lines 26-40).

6. Claims 7, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US patent 6,425,442 to Latiolais, Jr. et al.

Regarding claims 7 and 12, Latiolais et al disclose an apparatus for preventing rotation of a cementing plug 24 during drillout after cementing operations, the apparatus comprising: an outer sleeve 44 or 56 for connecting in a casing string; an inner sleeve 42 or 50 affixed to the outer sleeve, the inner sleeve having multiple curvatures 46 or 52 on an inner surface thereof, wherein the cementing plug is received in the inner sleeve (see Figs. 2, 7, and 10, and col. 7, line 62 through col. 8, line 23).

Regarding claim 13, the inner sleeve has a length such that two cementing plugs may be received therein (see Figs. 1 and 2).

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 3, 4, and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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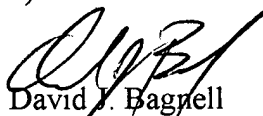
Conclusion


8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Maimets, Peart et al, Rybolt et al, and Hahm teach various types of sleeves with multiple curvatures thereon.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shane Bomar whose telephone number is 703-305-4849. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 7:00am to 4:30pm. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bagnell can be reached on 703-308-2151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


David J. Bagnell
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3672

tsb 
February 2, 2005